

# Townsend Shows Surging Labor Strength

## Native Son

Cont. from Page 2, Second Section

black. They don't give black people a chance, so I took a chance and lost. But I don't care none now. They got me and it's all over now."

"Do you feel, Bigger, that somehow, somewhere, or sometime, or other you'll have a chance to make up for what you didn't get here on earth?"

"H...I...naw! When they strap me in that chair and turn on that heat, I'm through, for always."

"Bigger, I want to ask you something about your race. Do you love your people?"

"I don't know, Mr. Max. We all black and the white folks treat us the same."

"But Bigger, our race is doing things for you. There are Negroes leading your people."

"Yeah, I know. I heard about 'em. They all right, I guess."

"Don't you know any of 'em?"

"Naw."

"Bigger, are there many Negro boys like you?"

"I reckon so. All of 'em I know ain't got nothing and ain't going nowhere."

"Why didn't you go to some of the leaders of your race and tell them how you and other boys felt?"

"Aw, h...I...Mr. Max, they wouldn't listen to me. They rich, even though the white folks treat them almost like they do me. They almost like white people when it comes to guys like me. They say guys like me make it hard for them to get along with white folks."

"Did you ever hear any of your leaders make speeches?"

"Yeah, sure. At 'lection time."

"What did you think of them?"

"Aw, I don't know. They all the same. They wanted to get 'lected to office. They wanted money, like everybody else. Mr. Max, it's a game and they play it."

"Why didn't you play it?"

"H...I...what do I know? I ain't got nothing. Nobody'll pay any attention to me. I'm just a black guy with nothing. I just went to grammar school. And politics is full of big shots, guys from colleges."

"Didn't you trust them?"

"I don't reckon they wanted anybody to trust 'em. They wanted to get 'lected to office. They paid you to vote."

"Did you ever vote?"

"Yeah, I voted twice. I wasn't old enough, so I put my age up so I could vote and get five dollars."

"YoU didn't mind selling your vote?"

"Naw, why should I?"

"You didn't mind selling your get you anything?"

"I got me five dollars on 'lection day."

"Bigger, did any white people ever talk to you about labor unions?"

"Naw, nobody but Jan and Mary. But she oughtn't done it. But I couldn't help what I did. And Jan, I reckon I did him wrong by signing 'Red' to that ransom note."

"Do you believe he's your friend now?"

"Well, he ain't against me. He didn't turn against me today when they was questioning him. I don't think he hates me like the others. I suppose he's kind of hurt about Miss Dalton though."

"Bigger, did you think you'd ever come to this?"

"Well, to tell the truth, Mr. Max, it seems sort of natural-like, me being here facing that death chair. Now, I come to think of it, it seems like something like this just had to be."

They were silent. Max stood up and sighed. Bigger watched to see what Max was thinking, but Max's face was white and blank.

"Well, Bigger," Max said, "we'll enter a plea of not guilty at the arraignment tomorrow. But when the trial comes up we'll change it to a plea of guilty and ask for mercy. They're pushing the trial; it may be held in two or three days. I'll tell the judge all I can of how you feel and why. I'll try

### AFL STAND-PATTERS

## "Pocket" Randolph, Geo. McCray Declares

(By George F. McCray for ANP)

The eyes of the Negro labor world are focused on the 1942 convention of the CIO opening in Boston on Nov. 9. Interest in the CIO convention has been greatly sharpened by the crushing defeat A. P. Randolph received at the hands of cowardly and reactionary leaders who dominated the Toronto convention of the AFL last week.

Randolph not only got no constructive action on his anti-discrimination platform, but he was actually rebuffed to the point of being expelled from the convention.

AFL NOT ALL-OUT FOR VICTORY. This rebuff to Randolph was indeed quite disappointing to AFL CIO, and civic leaders who had hoped Bill Green, president of the AFL, would lead his organization to do something concrete about eliminating discrimination in AFL unions.

The convention simply refused to do a single thing to aid national unity. Simply put its eyes to the troublesome fact that cannot have both effective use of our manpower resources and appeasement to Hitler to Jim-crow in unions and industry at the same time.

One would think that Mr. Green and other AFL leaders would be doing everything they can to build national unity and to make the American people aware of the danger of discrimination to national security. Mr. Green is fully aware of the situation. He is a member of the President's Committee on Employment Practices and has been issuing strong statements against discrimination. Even Frank Fenton, general organizer of the AFL, has been participating in public hearings on discrimination all over the country.

Despite these gestures, various unions in the AFL are continuing

discriminations as usual. They seem to know the AFL does not mean business on this discrimination issue. Almost at the same time the convention was telling Randolph they regarded him as a nuisance, an AFL union on the Pacific coast was demanding that the Kaiser Shipbuilding Co. segregate and demote 30 Negro skilled workers.

RANDOLPH ON SPOT. Mr. Randolph is really on the spot. As a leader of the militant March-On-Washington Movement, he cannot afford to merely retire from the anti-discrimination fight and lick his wounds. He must do something, for it is now quite clear the AFL is not likely to support him in his fight against discrimination. Moreover, without the support of powerful leaders within the AFL, Randolph's effectiveness as a labor leader is seriously limited.

In contrast to the pocket in which the no-forward-step policy of the AFL has placed Randolph, Bill Townsend is getting excellent co-operation from the CIO. Townsend is the aggressive head of the United Transport Service Employees Union and is the only Negro to ever serve as an executive board member of a major federation of labor unions.

TOWNSEND IN STRATEGIC SPOT. Since the opposition in the AFL was too powerful for Randolph to overcome in the AFL, it is now up to Townsend to run for a touchdown in CIO. He seems to face an open field.

Murray and the CIO's executive board on Townsend's instigation have agreed to sponsor before the CIO convention a resolution to create a special anti-discrimination department within the CIO. Townsend wants a department which will not only do "missionary" work in race relations in the labor movement, but which will also cultivate better race relations among the general public outside organized labor.

The widespread interest in this move by the Townsend forces, the co-operation he is getting from CIO leaders indicate that Townsend is fast becoming the most powerful Negro labor leader in the country.

## Negroes Build Outstanding Records As Skilled Workers at Packing Plants

### SWIFT FIRM IS ONE OF MAJOR EMPLOYERS.

This is the sixth of a series of articles on the important part being played by the Negro in the nation's war effort in the factories and in the armies of the United States.

Since nobody doubts that an army travels on its stomach, meat packing takes a place beside the manufacture of guns and shells as an essential war industry. Chicago, as world center of the meat packing business, therefore contributes not only to the welfare of the Army but also sends life-sustaining meat and meat by-products to the civilian populations of the various United Nations.

Negroes have been employed in the large plants in the Chicago area since meat packing became a major industry. Today, and for a good many years past, they are found in both the skilled and semi-skilled categories as well as at the unskilled jobs.

### Work in Special Lines.

One of the major employers of Negro labor is Swift & Co., one of the larger meat packers out in the famed stockyards district. This past July, out of a roster of approximately 5,400 manual workers, there were 2,039 Negroes at the Swift plant. This is considerably more than were employed there at the corresponding time in 1941. It is true of Negroes as it is of other races and nationalities working there that the total number fluctuates with the seasonal demands of the industry and the type of volume being handled.

Although they are at work in most departments, the majority of the Swift & Co. Negro personnel are in the cattle, sheep and hog dressing sections and their subsidiary departments, soap, table ready

let his body taste of that short respite of rest he had felt after talking with Max. He sat down on the cot; he had to grasp this thing.

(Continued Next Week)

meats, smoked meats, pork trimming, curing collars, refinery departments, cold storage and the by-product departments.

Obviously, with more than 2,000 Negro workers, many have made outstanding records and have been in the company employ for many years.

One of the oldest is Joseph Shores who last spring started, his forty-third year at the plant. He has been a Swift & Co. worker since April 1900, leaving for a short time in 1904 but returning the following year. Starting as a teamster, Shores, now 64, has been a chauffeur since 1939.

He's a Shipping Clerk.

Another old employee is Al Wall who started work in 1902, quit

15 years later and then returned permanently in 1919. Beginning in the machine shop, he is now a lathe hand. Andrew Cantrell, hired in 1906, is now a floorman and backer while Walter Sheridan, on the payroll for 35 years, has been a storeroom clerk for much of this period.

J. W. Crocker began work with the company in 1918. He quit after a short period of time and re-joined the service Oct. 5, 1920. Starting as a laborer Crocker has long worked himself up to the position of department shipping and discrepancy clerk.

Ernest Crooke has had continuous service with the company since early in 1917. He began as a laborer in beef dressing and has now reached a point where he is adapt-

ed to most of the skilled work on the dressing floor.

An assistant foreman in the soap continuously for Swift since 1913 factory, James Johnson has worked after being hired first in 1908 and afterward leaving. Robert Hackley, taken on in 1918, is an evaporator man and Phil Weightman, with the plant 12 years, during the rush season in 1941 acted as an instructor and all-around butcher in the hog dressing department.

As is customary in most Chicago plants, Negroes are integrated throughout instead of being separated into special units. Thus far, Swift executives say they have encountered no particular problems of racial friction and believe that while at work there may be less friction at the company than is to be found in the community outside of employment activities.

Many Negroes are union members, with several serving on various committees of their labor organizations and occupying official positions in the administration of union affairs.

(Courtesy Chicago Sun)

EXPERT BUTCHERS, NEGRO AND WHITE, work together in this department at Swift & Co., preparing hams and bacon for use throughout the United Nations. More than 2,000 Negroes are employed at the huge packing plant in the Stockyards area.

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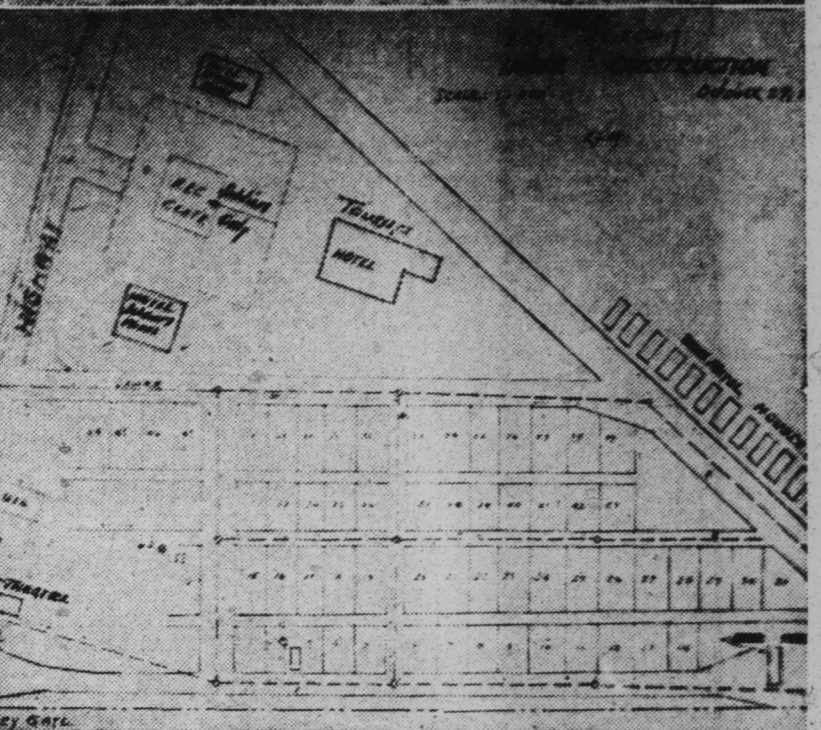
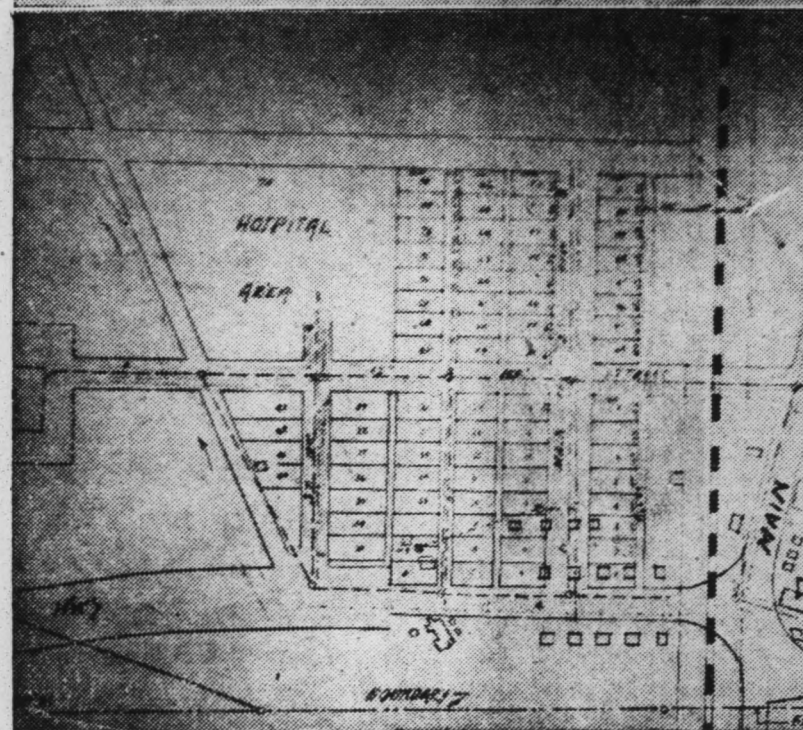
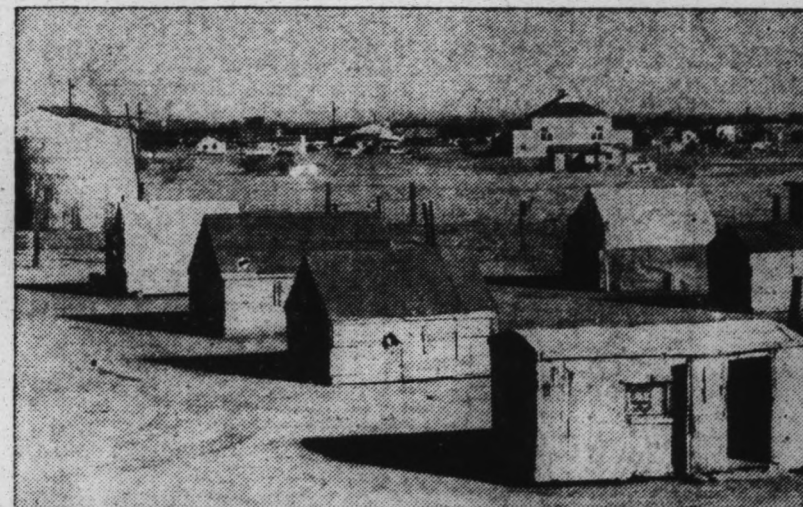
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### LARGEST COLORED COMMAND:

## Historic Huachuca 'Builds Better Soldiers'; Offers Excellent Combat Training Site



Upper Left: Dilapidated shacks and shanties such as these are being torn down to pave the way for the new city.

Upper Right: Material, and houses already under construction. Large building in background is the U. S. O. Club House.

Lower: This is plan of the new city of Fry, Arizona, that was once a dream and is now becoming a reality. —Photo by Harmon

By Adams

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz.—Just outside the gates of this historic Post, squatting at the foot of Arizona's Picturesque mountains lie the unincorporated community of Fry, Arizona. Like the proverbial mushroom, Fry sprang up overnight and grew by the grace and nature of the military patronage that so generously contributed to its survival out of necessity and not by choice.

In Fry, one has found the good with the bad, and needless to say, the evil has tried to run rampant to such an extent that the good would soon be decidedly the second best in the field. Canteens, theatres, grocery stores, sandwich shops and the USO Center are landmarks of decency and respect, that are certainly assets to the military assembled here.

They patriotically co-operate with the Post Command for the best interest of the soldiers and should be given every chance to live and thrive in a clean atmosphere.

Colonel Edwin N. Hardy, Post

Commander, and his staff demand that Fort Huachuca be exposed to only the best in the way of clean, wholesome recreation. The improvements now being inaugurated with the co-operation of the Federal Government's WPA, the State of Arizona and Patriotically financed by Colored Business men, with the entire project under the control of the military, will undoubtedly give Fry that necessary clean bill of health.

The Command at Fort Huachuca realizing this fact, and because it feels a protective responsibility to those men who are preparing to fight, The Battle of World Survival and Decency, makes it know, that only the best will be offered these men of Huachuca. Good clean recreation is provided for all men who are in the throes of rigid military training, because after a hard day in the field, relaxation is necessary so that the man who carries America's colors into the fray can greet the new day refreshed and better able to "carry on."

This is the type of American soldier that is needed to whip the Japa-nazi's. With its Theatres, Sports Arena, Ball Diamonds, Football gridirons, swimming pool, Service Clubs, Post Exchanges, Fort Huachuca is a community in itself.

Huachuca will always turn out better fighting men because of good training surroundings. Its training terrain offers excellent advan-

ages for combat training. That is the reason the first all-Colored infantry division of this war was activated here. In passing, it can be said that Fort Huachuca lies in a cosmopolitan triangle in that it has a Mexican, Indiana and American flavor.

Mushrooming out of the vast sandy Arizona waste like a huge Military Taj Mahal, is Fort Huachuca, the largest Colored Military Command in the U. S. Embodies back to the days of Chief blazed with a historic past that dates back to the days of Chief Geronimo and The Apache Kid. Fort Huachuca has stood as a rugged protective sentinel along our continental border. Here today on this same Post, thousands of brown-skinned sons of America are going through intensive training preparatory to coming to grips with a ruthless enemy that is intent upon destroying the tenets of democracy which are dear to the hearts of all liberty loving Americans.

In spite of the fact that Fort Huachuca is somewhat removed from heavily populated urban areas, it is one, if not the finest, military camps in the country. Because of its climate, which offers 245 days or better a year in continual sunshine and health giving altitude, which has in the past been an invitation to hopeful civilian "on-vascents, there is no doubt that the most rugged, aggressive fighting men can be made on this Post.

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So speaks one of the poets of this new war. There is no dodging the issue. We must learn how to co-operate, how to get along with our neighbors, how to live together.

Wherever OUR duty—OUR opportunity for service—lies, we must work TOGETHER, in shop and on the farm, at the battle front and in the home.

We must sacrifice TOGETHER. We must prove our faith by putting into actual practice our belief in the democratic way of working TOGETHER without asking other than that our fellow workers abide by the principles set down in our Bill of Rights.

Therein lies the great difference between the democracies and the totalitarian states. THEY fight under orders for the State—we fight together for the good of all people. This is the cohesive quality of democracy. This is why we work together now. This is why we will work together for the future and for a permanent peace in a world in